

County, where she taught home economics in the field and in the home. In addition, Helen conducted radio educational programs in Nicholas and Fayette Counties and performed "Friends and Neighbors," an educational television program. Furthermore, Helen assisted as eastern regional director for the National Home Demonstration Agents Association [HDAA], and also served as State president of the West Virginia chapter of HDAA.

However, Helen's true colors are revealed through her in-depth involvement with the Nicholas County chapter of the American Red Cross. In the past, Helen has been a Red Cross volunteer for many years and has primarily been responsible for locating volunteers to manage crucial programs, such as blood services, first aid and CPR educational programs, service to military families, and disaster relief assistance. From 1976 to 1981, Helen served as the volunteer executive secretary of the American Red Cross. In December 1980, Helen retired after 34 years of teaching home economics to extension homemakers and soon after accepted the dual positions of full-time chapter managers and treasurer.

Although Helen recently retired in December 1994 from her office of chapter manager of the American Red Cross in Summersville, she still remains involved in various volunteer activities in addition to her employment by Love, Inc. For example, Helen continues to volunteer at the Nicholas County chapter of the American Red Cross, where she holds the position of executive secretary and is a member of the board of directors. Also, she occasionally still teaches classes through programs under the WVU extension service concerning lesson leader training. Helen, since 1981, has volunteered with the Food Pantry of the Summersville Ministerial Association, where she organizes food supplies for the pantry. Furthermore, Helen reviews applications for emergency assistance at the Federal Emergency Management Agency program in Summersville. Also, since 1942, Helen has been a Sunday school teacher and continues to teach an adult women's class at Memorial United Methodist Church in addition to a weekly Bible study class.

Helen Cole's accomplishments deserve notice and praise. Her enthusiasm and concern for humankind provide a model we should all strive to follow. ●

#### TEMPORARY STORAGE OF CIVILIAN SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL AT THE HANFORD RESERVATION IN WASHINGTON STATE

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I wish to discuss a serious and important issue facing the Nation: Our growing supply of civilian spent nuclear fuel that has no home. My friend from Alaska, Senator MURKOWSKI, submitted a statement for the RECORD before the Senate adjourned for the Memorial Day

recess. In it, he discussed a number of policy options to be employed for interim storage. Hanford, WA, and Savannah River, SC were two sites he mentioned as possible interim storage facilities for civilian spent nuclear fuel.

Located in the southeastern part of Washington State, the Hanford Reservation is home to over 80 percent of the Nation's spent plutonium fuel—2,132 metric tons by Senator MURKOWSKI's count. The most potent of that waste sits hundreds of yards from the Columbia River in 50-year-old concrete pools. These pools are not sophisticated and certainly not designed to store some of the deadliest materials produced by man.

Hanford faces a particularly difficult situation. This year the site has incurred serious criticism for the waste and inefficiencies that have become associated with Hanford cleanup. Much of this criticism is well deserved. Some, however, is off-base and ignorant of the monumental task at hand. Hanford has a mission—it is to follow through on the noble and worthy effort this Government undertook to win World War II. The site must be cleaned—that is the task at hand.

Adding more waste to Hanford, as I have said before, makes little sense. As the chairman of the Energy Committee, Senator MURKOWSKI has joined the ranking member, Senator JOHNSTON in introducing a bill that, I fear, would impede ongoing cleanup efforts at the site. So it is puzzling, when my friend suggests Hanford can barely tie its own shoes, but in the next breath, he says the site should be burdened with massive amounts of additional waste. There is a disconnect. I believe Hanford's mission is to focus on cleanup. So let me be clear: Shipping spent civilian nuclear fuel to Hanford sets a dangerous, and perhaps irrevocable, precedent. And unfortunately, despite Senator MURKOWSKI's assurances to the contrary, when dealing with waste that has a half-life of thousands of years, "interim" takes on an entirely new meaning.

Senator MURKOWSKI, fortunately, understands there is considerable room for debate on this issue. He is absolutely right to point out the problems the country faces in light of the impending spent fuel storage crisis. I also sympathize with the Senator from Alaska's frustration at both DOE and the President's lack of progress at Yucca Mountain. As he correctly notes, over \$4.2 billion has been spent on the Yucca Mountain project to date—with nothing to show for the effort.

Rather than abandon this program altogether—which the House essentially does in its budget resolution this year—does it not make more sense to push through and finish a project that has absorbed significant time and money? Quite clearly, the United States must build a long-term storage facility for its high-level nuclear

waste. Yucca Mountain, by most indications, is the logical choice.

As the Senator from Alaska emphasized in his statement, both an interim storage site and transportation system at Yucca Mountain must be developed. If it is the intention of the Federal Government to send waste to Yucca Mountain eventually, why not send the spent fuel there temporarily, until the permanent depository is ready? It is remote, arid, and has had a mission of testing nuclear devices for over 40 years. And perhaps most important, by placing a temporary facility at Yucca Mountain, transporting this deadly material across the Nation is limited to one voyage.

My intent today is not to solve the interim storage problems that the Nation faces with its growing stockpile of spent civilian nuclear fuel. I do, however, want to point out an inconsistency this Congress is contemplating: Cleaning Hanford while simultaneously adding more waste begs common sense. And I urge my colleagues to keep this in mind in their deliberations. ●

#### THE FOSTER NOMINATION

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to renew my call for the majority leader to schedule a vote on the nomination of Dr. Foster to be Surgeon General of the United States. The Senate has had ample time to review Dr. Foster's record since his nomination was sent to us in February—over 3 months ago. It is time to take the next step and vote. We should not keep Dr. Foster or our Nation waiting.

America needs a strong and experienced voice on public health issues. Historically, the Surgeon General has always played that role. In the 1930's the Surgeon General launched a campaign to educate the public on the dangers of venereal disease. In the 1960's the challenge facing the Surgeon General was smoking; in the 1980's it was AIDS; today, the challenge is teen pregnancy, tuberculosis, and disease prevention.

I am confident that Dr. Foster has what it takes to make his mark in history and to lead us in working on the many public health issues that we face. So do many of my colleagues in this Chamber. Let's remember that Dr. Foster's nomination was favorably reported out by the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee on a 9-7 vote.

There should be no delays and no more evasion of responsibility. It is time for the full Senate to vote on Dr. Foster's nomination for the position of Surgeon General. ●

#### THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL ACT

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, no politician likes to admit that he made a mistake in voting for any bill. But, in life and politics, it is usually better to be right than to be consistent.